

Executive Summary

Hispanic Advisory Council 2003 Policy Report

Presented to New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey

Monday, October 27, 2003

I. EDUCATION:

A. Increase access to quality preschool programs

1. Complete facilities needs assessments of all Abbott preschool programs
2. Encourage local school boards in Abbott districts to contract with community-based organizations to construct facilities
3. Publish standards and regulations for school construction to ensure community needs are met
4. Authorize community-based organizations to access EDA funds

B. Improve Bilingual/Bicultural Education

1. Support recruitment and professional development of Hispanic/Bilingual staff
2. Ensure that bilingual education programs are available in all schools

C. Create Academic Support Programs

1. Develop after-school programs with community-based and faith-based organizations
2. Build partnerships between schools and community-based Latino organizations

D. Lack of Hispanic Representation in Higher Education

1. Establish “college teams” of parents and educators to prepare Latino youth for college
2. Appoint Hispanics to bodies that establish higher education policy
3. Support legislation ensuring Hispanic youth residing in New Jersey have equal access to public colleges

II. HEALTH:

A. Increase Access to Health Care

1. Increase support to primary care providers for their outreach efforts to the Latino community
2. Support universal health insurance for low-income working families
3. Address factors limiting accessibility to health service providers
4. Support special initiatives to provide basic health care services for undocumented immigrants

B. Improve Mental Health Services for Latinos

1. Increase number of bilingual and bicultural clinicians in NJ mental health centers through recruitment and retention efforts
2. Support efforts to recruit and retain bilingual and bicultural clinicians in community mental health service provider agencies
3. Increase accessibility and capacity of community-based bilingual, culturally competent mental health and substance abuse services

C. Establish More Outreach Programs

1. Increase Latino awareness about mental health and chronic disease prevention
2. Develop scholarship programs with charities and corporations

D. Increase Cultural and Linguistic Competency

1. Implement cultural and linguistic competency standards in health care organizations and policy making boards
2. Support cultural competency training for all physicians, as a condition of licensure
3. Provide adequate interpretation services to ensure that limited English proficient patients receive appropriate health care services

E. Standardize Data and Research

1. Require all state departments that collect racial and ethnic information to use standardized definitions and means of data collection
2. Licensing boards should collect and maintain standardized race/ethnicity/spoken language data on health care professionals

III. ECONOMIC EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY

A. Develop the Hispanic Workforce

1. Target initiatives in the One-Step Career Center system to specifically assist Latinos
2. Develop and implement plans to assist Latinos with job location and development
3. Add language skills as a factor for compensation

B. Implement Training and Education Projects

1. Assist Hispanic-owned businesses in obtaining bonding and working capital
2. Educate Hispanic contractors in how to better do business with State departments and agencies

C. Enforce Economic Parity

1. Group minority businesses by racial or ethnic category
2. Advance Hispanic businesses as prime consultants and contractors

3. Monitor sub-consultants in school programs and enforce the State's Prompt Payment Program

D. Incorporate Hispanic-Owned Businesses in School Construction Plan

1. Streamline the certification process
2. NJ School Construction Corporation should permit Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Small Business Enterprises (SBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) to form joint ventures
3. Modify trade classification and rating systems

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10/27/03